



Embarras River Bottoms State Habitat Area

Management-Monitoring update Fall 2013



A Management-Monitoring Plan (MMP) describing the terms of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment settlement and a phased approach to restoration with focus on baseline monitoring and site preparation activities is available at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/programs/NRDA/Pages/ERBSHA.aspx> and the Lawrence Public Library. **This plan is effective April 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.**

Summer 2013 Activities

Activities for the summer months included baseline monitoring, brush-cutting, mowing, herbiciding, a prescribed burn, and installation of a gate at the NW entrance.

Baseline monitoring of turtles, vegetation, and fish was conducted this summer. Preliminary data reveal healthy populations of various species of turtles, native vegetation and fish. The data also reveal the presence of exotic and invasive species. These data will provide the basis for site restoration and management plans.



Brush-cutting, mowing and herbiciding activities are ongoing. These activities will reduce undesired woody vegetation, allowing for a more thorough evaluation of the present condition of the site and aid in the development of an appropriate plan for restoration, maintenance and operation of the site.



A **prescribed burn** was conducted at the end of August in an upland area along Billet Road. Prescribed burning will encourage the re-establishment of native communities and will maintain desired community structure. Prescribed burning will reduce encroachment by undesirable vegetation.



A 30 ft **pipe gate** was installed at the northwest entrance of the habitat area.



What's happening next

- Brushing cutting, mowing and prescribed burning activities continue
- Bird and Mammal surveys

Look for an update in Spring 2014

IDNR contact:

Beth Whetsell

(217) 557-7816

Beth.Whetsell@illinois.gov